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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 5 June 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations dated 28 May 1991 addressed to Your Excellency and to the statement on Myanmar issued by the European Community and its 12 member States on 27 May 1991 annexed thereto, the texts of which were circulated as General Assembly document A/46/210 dated 31 May 1991.

The same statement was communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar by the Embassy of France in Yangon. The text of the Ministry's reply to the Embassy contained in its Note 24 31(1)89 dated 5 June 1991 is annexed hereto.

I should here like to reiterate the firmly held position of my Government that the political process now under way in Myanmar to which reference was made in the statement is a matter falling essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of Myanmar in the terms of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter.

Without prejudice to this position I have the honour to request that the text of this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly under item 99 of the preliminary list, in connection with the question of enhancing the effectiveness of the principles of periodic and genuine elections.

(Signed) Kyaw MIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Communication dated 5 June 1991 from the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar to the
Embassy of France in Yangon

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar presents its compliments to the Embassy of France and has the honour to refer to the Letter's Note No. 129.91 MOFA dated 29 May 1991 forwarding the text of the statement issued by the European Community on Myanmar.

The Ministry deeply regrets that the European Community issued such an unwarranted statement and completely rejects the false accusations which are based on misconceptions and misapprehensions. The Ministry would like to draw the attention of the European Community to the fact that the State Law and Order Restoration Council, since its assumption of State's responsibilities in September 1988 has endeavoured to bring about peace and stability in the country, uplift the standard of living of the people while implementing fundamental political, economic and administrative changes. The previous single party political system has been replaced by a multi-party system, and the centrally-planned economy by a market-oriented one.

The 27 May 1990 multi-party democracy general elections had been universally acknowledged (including the European Community and the international media) as being free and fair. Since that time the State Law and Order Restoration Council has been working towards the emergence of a firm constitution which is the prerequisite for the establishment of a democratic society in Myanmar. The guidelines for the future programme of action have been enunciated in Declaration 1/90 and have been agreed by all the political parties. In fact, the majority of the political parties themselves had stressed the need for a new constitution in their respective election manifestos prior to the election.

It is therefore misleading to state that the Myanmar authorities have not made "positive response" to respect the result of the election or to accept the request "for the initiation of a democratic process". The State Law and Order Restoration Council has time and again reiterated that it has no intention of delaying the transfer of power and that normal process will follow the adoption of the firm constitution.

The Myanmar Government totally refutes the assertion of "numerous shortcomings in ... rules of conduct and of human rights" as they are normally based on false, unreliable and biased sources. Since there are no political prisoners in Myanmar, there is no need to further expound on this misconception.

The Union of Myanmar wishes to maintain friendly and mutually beneficial ties with all countries of the world. However, it will not permit any individual country or group of countries to interfere in its internal affairs,

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for Myanmar believes that only the people of the country know best its own conditions and must be able to shape its destiny in keeping with its historical, political, economic, social and cultural conditions and traditions.

While Myanmar is prepared to have economic and technical cooperation, on an equal basis, with friendly countries, it will never accept the use of development assistance by foreign countries to the detriment of its national integrity. Such unwarranted pressure can only be counterproductive.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of France the assurances of its highest consideration.
